diameter greater than that of the thread (length 3mm, diameter 380 µm) into the vascular system of the rat.

- Figure 2 illustrates an engendered cerebral ischemia over a 24 hour period.
- Figure 3a illustrates that inhalation by the rats of nitrous oxide (N_2O) or of xenon (Xe) subsequent to ischemia makes it possible to considerably reduce the total volume of infarction, since a decrease in this volume of approximately 50% can be achieved in the case of inhalation of mixtures No. 2 and No. 3 instead of air (mixture No. 1 acting as control), and of approximately 30% when mixture No. 4 is inhaled.
- Figures 3b to 3d confirm the results of Figure 3a, since they make it possible to observe that inhalation of xenon or of N_2O makes it possible to decrease, respectively, the post-ischemic volume of cortical infarction (Fig. 3b), the post-ischemic volume of striatal infarction (Fig. 3c) and the post-ischemic volume of oedema (Fig. 3d), compared to inhalation of air (control = mixture No. 1).
- Figure 4 illustrates that the administration of xenon or of nitrous oxide engenders a smaller volume (in mn^3) of deteriorated NMDA receptors than the control (air), this being with the nitrous oxide given at a dose of 50% or 75% by volume (remainder = 25% of O_2) and the xenon given at a dose of 50% or 75% (remainder = mixture of 25% of O_2 + 25% of N_2, or, respectively, 25% of O_2).
- Figure 5 illustrates a rat brain 24 hours after reperfusion, wherein thin sections 40 µm thick are cut and then stained with cresyl violet.

AW 4-29-08

4) Please add the following paragraph to page ~~8~~ 9, line ~~39~~ 20:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.